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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05
EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 /098 W
----------124600 061147Z /15
P R 060648Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASDC PRIORITY 2708
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 1827

FOR ASST. SECY. HOLBROOKE

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ECON, ASEAN, MY, US
SUBJECT: US-ASEAN DIALOGUE

REF: A) STATE 47752, B) KUALA LUMPUR 1468 (NOTAL),
C) MANILA 2849 (NOTAL), D) MANILA 2401 (NOTAL)

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER, I CALLED
ON MFA SECRETARY GENERAL ZAKARIA BIN MOHD. ALI
MARCH 3 TO FOLLOW-UP YOURDISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR
ZAIN AND OTHER ASEAN AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON
FEBRUARY 17. I DREW EXTENSIVELY ON YOUR REPORT OF
THAT MEETING. ON BOTH THE QUESTION OF LEVEL OF
REPRESENTATION AND OF TIMING WE OF COURSE WILL BE
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RESPONSEIVE TO ASEAN'S VIEWS, I ADDED.

2. ZAKARIA REPLIED THAT HE APPRECIATED LEARNING
OUR VIEWS, AS THIS "CLEARS THE AIR" ON THE
SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT THE RECENT DECISION TAKEN
AT THE BANGKOK STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING TO
RECOMMEND THAT THE NEXT ROUND OF US-ASEAN TALKS

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BE HELD AT THE OFFICIAL LEVEL REFLECTED WHAT WAS UNDERSTOOD TO BE THE US VIEW OF THE MATTER, AS CONVEYED VIA MANILA. NOW THAT WE HAVE A SPECIFIC US "PROPOSAL", WE CAN CONSIDER IT, HE ADDED. HE INDICATED HE WOULD INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO WOULD DISCUSS IT WITH HIS COLLEAGUES.

3. ZAKARIA SAID THAT THE TIMING QUESTION WOULD STILL HAVE TO BE SORTED OUT, AS HE WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER THIS WOULD BE MUTUALLY CONVENIENT FOR ALL THE PARTICIPANTS. HE GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT AGREEMENT ON MINISTERIAL LEVEL ATTENDANCE MIGHT BE EASIER TO RESOLVE THAN THE TIMING, BUT INDICATED THAT OUR VIEWS ON BOTH THE LEVEL AND TIMING WULD BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.
MILLER

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